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The International Week

Of most interest on the international scene was the revelation of an atomic explosion in the USSR. Such evidence of Soviet ability to produce atomic weapons will probably have widespread psychological repercussions, especially in Western Europe and lead to renewed pressure for UN atomic control. Meanwhile Soviet Foreign Minister Vishinsky unveiled the Soviet propaganda theme for the 1949 GA in calling for a Five Power "Peace Pact." The issue posed by Yugoslavia's SC candidacy continued to perplex UN members.

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More Vishinsky. Adhering to his general pattern in recent GA meetings, Soviet Foreign Minister Vishinsky conducted the usual philippic against the Western Powers ending with the introduction of a purely propagandistic proposal as the Soviet GA "leitmotif." There was nothing essentially new in the opening Soviet diatribe except its brevity. It led up to a three pronged proposal that the GA (a) specifically condemn the war preparations of the US and UK, (b) call for the immediate and unconditional prohibition of atomic weapons and the establishment of "rigid international control," (c) note the "mighty popular movement for peace and against warmongers," and request the five major powers to conclude a peace pact. No one of these proposals has the slightest chance of adoption by the GA in any recognizable form, as the USSR well knows. However if any resolution finally emerging from the GA should even touch the same subjects as those of the Soviet proposals, the USSR will undoubtedly claim the initiative for all that is good in the end product.

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A "Peace Partisans" to stage world-wide demonstrations as UN considers Soviet "pact". An "International Day of Struggle For Peace," to be held October 2 in all countries, will climax the drive of the World Peace Partisans and other major Communist front organizations to organize world public opinion behind Soviet "peace objectives" and against Western defense plans. At the recent Moscow Peace Congress peace partisans everywhere were urged to hold a "mass rising" on this day and "to show daring and convince themselves of their own power." These demonstrations, coinciding with the UN General Assembly, were planned at

a midsummer meeting in Paris between representatives of the Permanent Committee of Peace Partisans, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, and the Women's International Democratic Federation. Communist determination to give maximum impetus to the current drive is reflected in (1) Soviet Foreign Minister Vishinsky's proposal in the UN for a Five-Power peace pact, (2) a Polish plea for UNESCO support of the peace movement, (3) a reported Swiss Communist plan to present to the UN a monster "peace petition," (4) the scheduling of September peace congresses in Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland.

The effect of these cumulative peace efforts has been that of a well-coordinated preparation for the Soviet Foreign Minister's "peace pact," which, he declares, will give expression to "the mighty popular movement for peace and against warmongers."

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Uncertainty over Yugoslavia's SC Candidacy. A murk of indecision over Belgrade's bid for an SC seat continued to hang over Flushing Meadows. The Western Powers were still waiting for GA majority sentiment to crystallize while the majority were looking toward the west for a lead. Secretary General Lie advised key GA officials of Soviet Assistant Secretary General Zinchenko's statement that the USSR was "pretty much worried" about both Yugoslavia and its SC aspirations. This development, together with the announcement of an atomic explosion in the USSR, may have injected a new note of caution into the situation. In what looks like a last minute switch, the USSR apparently shifted its choice from Byelorussia to Czechoslovakia, perhaps in recognition of the widespread aversion to placing members of the Soviet Union itself in the SC. Delay in the SC elections may work against Yugoslavia as the delegates have more time to ponder the full implications to the UN of the Soviet reaction.

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France opposes closer UNESCO integration with UN. The recent US proposal for closer integration of UNESCO into the general UN structure has led to reconsideration of UNESCO's basic character and purposes at the current Paris Conference. The French believe that the "spiritual nature" of UNESCO should be stressed and that it should not be too closely identified with the political problems of the UN. This position probably reflects French disinclination to see UNESCO come under too close control of the UN, which they regard as US-dominated. Support for this attitude is expected from Latin American delegates, who are often moved by appeals to spiritual values and who feel happier when discussing UNESCO as a cultural approach to peace. Despite this development, the UK and British Commonwealth, sharing US impatience with the multiplicity and incoherence of past UNESCO programs, will probably continue to insist that it concentrate on a few "concrete" objectives such as fundamental education and technical assistance.

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Devaluation's effect on UN Budget. The general devaluation of currencies following British initiative is certain to lend impetus to the economy campaign in the UN. It will give additional point to Brazil's proposal to eliminate proliferation and overlapping of projects of the UN and its specialized agencies. It will result in trimming the budgets of such specialized agencies as UNESCO. It will rule out any reduction in the US contribution to the UN budget, now about 40%, and put steam behind the demand that members be permitted to pay part of their assessments in soft currencies. Finally it may give rise to requests that more meetings be held in soft currency areas where prices will not be so steep for participating nations.

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Satellites may end collaboration with UNESCO in protest over German program. The recent walk-out of Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary after the UNESCO Conference's adoption of a German program may presage the end of active Satellite participation in that organization. Although they staged a similar walk-out from the UNESCO 1947 conference, Poland this time warned that a decision to work with the "neo-Fascist Western German government" might determine whether UNESCO would continue to be a world organization. The mounting irritation of the Soviet-orbit powers at any UN recognition for the Bonn Government was indicated earlier in the year by their repudiation of West German representation in the ILO and is currently reflected in their plan to force reconsideration in ECOSOC of UNESCO's German program.

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Increased Pressure for UN atomic control. The announcement that the USSR has produced an "atomic explosion" will result in greatly increased pressure in the UN for some form of international atomic energy control. The disappearance of the US "monopoly" and the mastery of atomic energy by a powerful potential aggressor will give new impetus to attempts to break the East-West deadlock which has so far blocked all UN efforts in this field. Many UN members, increasingly concerned over the devastation implicit in an atomic conflict, will be prepared to take the calculated risk of accepting a compromise UN control agreement rather than allowing continuation of the present deadlock and intensified atomic arms race. The futility of trying to move the USSR from its position will lead some states, particularly in the Far East and Latin America, to direct increasing pressure upon the US to compromise with the USSR in the belief that only through US concessions can any sort of atomic control agreement be reached.

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